

PRAN'AM 🙏

August 2022

Service to God Is Devotion

Date not known

The fundamental idea behind action is expressed in the following sloka:

"Karma brahmeti karma bahu kurviita".

The fundamental idea behind knowledge is:
"Satyam jinānam anantaṁ Brahma."

But the main underlying idea of devotion is:

Bhaktirbhagavato sevā bhaktih premasvarūpinii

Bhaktirānandarūpa ca bhaktih bhaktasya jīvanam.

On the paths of action and knowledge, Parama Puruṣa is the goal, the entity to be realized, and there is a definite cult to attain Him, to realize Him. But on the path of Bhakti (devotion), it is the goal itself and not a cult. This is the

fundamental difference between devotion on the one hand and knowledge and action on the other.

Bhakti is neither a cult nor an applied science; rather it is the highest stance of a cult. Those who follow the paths of action and knowledge say, "I want to realize the Supreme Entity." But the idea in the devotee's mind is, "I want to serve Parama Puruṣa." That is, the idea of service is predominant in Bhakti. This is the meaning of the first part of the sloka:

"Bhaktirbhagavato sevā." "I don't want anything from You, I don't want even to know You, I only want to serve You." Herein lies the excellence, as well as the superiority of Bhakti.

"Bhaktih premasvarupinii." The awakening of devotion causes the aesthetic sense – the feeling of beauty

that is dormant in one's heart – to express itself fully.

"Bhaktirānanda rupāca". What is bliss (Ānanda)? Bliss is the completely balanced state of mind, the highest state of human life. One who experiences bliss is not affected at all by feelings of happiness or sorrow. This sort of mental state, Ānanda or bliss is unassailed by feelings of happiness or sorrows. The bliss that is expressed through both "Ananda" or Bliss-subjectivity and objectivity is known as devotion.

People may say that there is a gulf of difference between subjectivity (internal feelings) and objectivity (external expressions). Why, then, are such contradictory adjectives used about the devotees? The reason is that the unit beings are both individually and collectively associated with Brahmananda

(Cosmic Bliss). That is why in the state of devotional bliss there is no difference between subjectivity and objectivity. In the case of Ananda both these terms are used.

“Bhaktih bhaktasya jivanam.” What is life? It is the expression of vital energy. Because of this expression, the inferential vibrations of the world get scope for reflection. This life is one of reflecting entity. For devotees, devotion alone is life, the expression of their vital energy. Where there is no devotion, when the devotion gets exhausted, the throbbing of their lives also stops. That is why devotees cannot even think of surviving without devotion, devotion is the very expression of their life.

For this reason, I said that devotion is fundamentally different from action and knowledge. If we put action and

knowledge on one side of a scale, and devotion on the other side, the scale will tilt in favour of devotion. Educated, intelligent and clever people consider the path of devotion to be superior.

Devotees, on the other hand, consider the paths of action and knowledge to be those of the fools. Published in:

Ánanda
Vacanámrtam Part
15 [unpublished in
English]

News from flood relief Lismore, Australia

Here's an outline of the disaster and our response: By Dada Jitendrananda

At the beginning of March, residents of the town of Lismore awoke to sirens telling them to immediately evacuate their houses. A weather front that had been forecast to move over the area settled instead and heavy rain quickly caused rivers to rise and drainage systems to overflow. Many

evacuated in chest high water. The scene was repeated in surrounding towns. As the water receded after several days, the scale of the disaster became apparent. Water had risen to the roof of many houses, leaving a sticky contaminated mud behind. The work of cleaning up began as the contents of each house had to be brought out to the front to be taken away.



Lismore Relief team

An AMURT team consisting of Acaryas and local Margiis arrived at this point and engaged in this enormous task. AMURT volunteers arrived from as far away as Melbourne and Sydney to join with the army and other volunteers to clean the houses street by street. By now, although support had arrived

in the form of food from individuals and groups, it was mostly cold food. We responded to the need for hot food. Didis Ananda Abhaya, Ananda Vijaya & Dada Saomyakrsnananda set up a kitchen where they prepared hot meals that we took to the worst affected areas.



When we wound down our operation after ten days, much of the major cleaning had been done and roads were back in service. We discussed our next phase of relief and determined that hot food would be needed for several weeks more while electricity was gradually restored. The other need we identified was relief from trauma as

people grappled with the magnitude of their loss. Then, at the end of March, the unthinkable happened. Another weather front moved through the still saturated catchment and the rivers once again claimed their flood plains. Again the mud, the evacuation, the trauma. Dada Saomyakrsnananda and Didi Ananda Nirmala led a team back to the area and re-established the food service preparing and delivering up to 600 meals a day. Local Margiis organised public kiirtan to help ease the trauma. A TV crew from a national broadcaster interviewed our AMURT coordinator.



In the beginning of May, our coordinators made a third trip to assess the the worst affected areas of Lismore, Woodburn,

Coraki and Broadwater. After the clean-up, the slow work of house restoration or demolition was underway. Uncertainty hangs over many residents as councils re-assess the future of settlement on the flood plains and insurance premiums rise beyond most people's affordability. Many families are living in Caravans and tents. AMURT delivered a donation of three tons of paint to the renovation work. AMURT also delivered homeopathic rescue remedies, to help with stress alleviation.



News from Ananda Palli

The story of the first half of 2022 in much of Australia is one of flooding. An AMURT team of WTs and Margiis from QLD,

Commented [U1]:

NSW and VIC provided relief in the worst affected areas of the Northern Rivers. Back at Ananda Palli, in May we celebrated Ananda Purnima with satsaunga and plenty of Baba stories.



Preparations are underway for this year's Eco-expo, scheduled for 3rd September at Ananda Palli. Following on last

year's success, we expect 500 people



to attend the one day festival and be inspired by local Landcare activists. Once again, we will cater for the event. This year, we also showcase Ananda Palli and the raised bed orchard we've created. We are busy planting a second orchard that will be ready for the big day.

Brisbane unit

Didi Ananda Shamita'

The regular weekly food supply to the Romero centre for asylum seeker families is ongoing. Around 12 families benefit. 80 meals are supplied every week to Community Friends for the

needy and homeless



in Westend.

AMURT/AMURTEL received



appreciation from the local councillor in Rocklea, Brisbane and the Tzu Chi Australia on their Facebook pages for assisting with the relief efforts after the floods earlier this year. We supplied hot meals and cleaned flood affected homes.

In May and June AMURT/AMURTEL in Brisbane supplied 600 hot meals to the community hubs in Coraki and Woodburn, NSW.



In February and March, the Brisbane Region Margiis were happy to come together for the house entry ceremonies of Anuradha, Vivek and family in Brisbane; and Shreya, Sukhadeva and family in Noosa.

In April we celebrated the baby naming of Deepti and Nikhil's son, Tarak.

We had a beautiful Ananda Purnima celebration in Brisbane.

I gave a talk at the Eco Fiesta in June, around 25 people attended and I initiated 5 sisters from there.

News from Townsville

"Dada Jiitendrananda and Didi Anandashamita were in Townsville for the Eco-Fiesta, on Sunday 5th June, in the beautiful Anderson Park. Dada gave a talk at the Uni yoga class and Didi gave a public talk on the stage at the Eco

Fiesta. We collected email addresses for our mailchimp database.



Amalendu's yoga class at James Cook University is ongoing. Thirty-five students attend regularly.



News from Auckland

From dada Shuddhatmananda:

I visited wellington for Prachar work. Brother Danesh had organized a cooking class with his friends.



We organized a feeding program for Neelakantha divas on the street of Wellington City. We distributed 20 packets of food to homeless people. Brother Himanshu and Danesh helped.



Cooking class and prachar in Motueka



Dada Shuddhatmananda visited Vistara where Haridev and Dhara had organized cooking class and yoga class. In yoga class 10 and cooking class 15 people attended





Northland Prachar tour by Dadas

Dada
Shuddhatmananda,
Dada
Vimalleshvarananda
and Dada
Diipajinananda all
visited Northland for
one Day seminar.
Brother Tarakanath
organized the
program.



Dada
Vimalleshvarananda
gave a yoga class
and Dada
Shuddhatmananda
gave a cooking class



International Yoga Day class

Every year we
organize a big
program in
downtown Auckland,
but due to
restriction we
organized instead a
small program at
Auckland Jagrti.



We taught yoga
asana and gave a
power point
presentation about
the need of yoga in
human life. We
served a light snack
after class.



Master Unit retreat at Vistara

By Haridev:

In January this year,
as a starting point to
beginning
discussions
exploring the notion
of forming an
Ananda Marga
Master Unit in New
Zealand/Aotearoa, a
retreat was
advertised to NZ
Margiis and acaryas
to take place at
'Vistara', Motueka,
April 15th-
18th. 11 margiis and
acarya's, plus an
additional 3 part-
time participants
gathered at 'Vistara'
to share satsang,
and as a first step in
sharing visions and
'dreamings' for a
Master-Unit or an
intentional spiritual
community.



Along with paincajanya; twice-daily full DC; a RAWA performance (sharings of music, song, poetry, jokes told by Baba, and a demonstration of hypnosis); shared meals, 3 presentations were given as follows;



+Dada Jitendrananda- 'Experiences from Ananda Palli Master Unit' (via Zoom from Australia). Within this presentation, Dada outlined his experience with the following approaches to exploring positive communication strategies; Edward de Bono ('6 Thinking Hats'); Myers-Briggs (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) and 'Non-

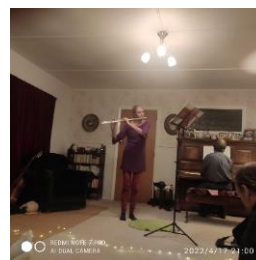
Violent Communication (NVC).
<https://youtu.be/Stj6oGIDIo>

+Didi Ananda Shubashisa - 'Shelter' (via Zoom from Germany). In her presentation, Didi used the analogy of the Mother's womb as our first form of shelter as human beings, and her talk focused primarily on the need for safety as a fundamental prerequisite to growth and development for individuals, and for communities.
<https://youtu.be/A1Duko3RnGA>



+Robina McCurdy- 'Intentional Communities in New Zealand/Aotearoa' (In-person at Vistara). Robina's powerpoint presentation provides snapshots of many intentional

communities 'alive' in Aotearoa presently. She briefly discusses the different emphasis and challenges of each.
<https://youtu.be/IrCTYraw8yI>



For your interest, below are a few photos from the weekend, and a link to a closed-group Facebook page with additional photos.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/544867013883688/media>
 Vistara-Yoga and Meditation Centre (Facebook page) also hosts a few photos;
<https://www.facebook.com/Vistara-Yoga-and-Meditation-Center-106225814051157/>

Mid-year conference, A.Palli

Namaskar,

We had a very inspiring AMPS Suva

Mid Year Conference 2022 from 7th July to 10th July. From the feedback attendees people enjoyed the satsaunga after a long break. The workshops were very informative and helped participants gain a deeper understanding of how Ananda Marga is working to create a better society.



Regular Pracar and service activities in sector:

Weekly Food collection and distribution to the needy people at Melbourne, Sydney, Katoomba, Brisbane, Perth in Australia and Auckland in New

Zealand. 100 to 300 people are benefitted every week at all these cities

Weekly Yoga classes

Weekly Yoga classes are running regularly at Melbourne Jagrti, Brisbane Jagrti, Otago University at Dunedin, New Zealand, at Auckland city Hospital, Auckland University, JC University, Townsville, Queensland and Sydney. 5 to 15 students attend regularly in each class.

Regular Dharmacakra is going on in different jagrtis like Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth. 10 to 30 margiis attend regularly in each Jagrti

ONLINE PROGRAMS:

Due to of Covid 19 Impact on the

Sector, many legal restrictions were imposed on collective gatherings. AMPS Suva organized various online Programs to keep margiis active & connected with margiia activities, which were very much inspiring and gave a lot of motivation for Baba's work. Specially 24 hrs Akhanda kiirtan on the occasion of New Year Retreat & Whole Retreat Program, 72hrs Akhanda kiirtan on Nilkanth Diivas, 48 hrs Akhanda Kiirtan on Dadhichi Diivas, 101 hrs Akhanda Kiirtan on the Occasion of ANANDA PURNIIMA Celebration (Participants from 45 countries of the world attended and sang Kiirtan). Daily Paincajanya, Collective Meditation both morning & evening is going on from last 2 years online. Margiis are actively participating in the program and enjoying spiritual bliss.

Fasting List:

M	EK	FM	NM
Aug	8,22	12	27
Sep	6,21	10	25
Oct	6,21	9	25
Nov	3,20	8	23
Dec	3,19	8	23
Jan	3,18	7	22

**Coming programs in
our Sector**

Shravanii Purnima-
12th August, Friday

24 hours Akhanda
kiirtan and Katha
kiirtan

Prabhata Samgiita
Day- 14th September

Kiirtan Divas- 8th
October

New Zealand regional
spring retreat- 21st to
24th October

Light Festival
(Dipavali) 25th
October

Sectorial Summer
conference: 27th Dec.
2022 to 1st January
2023